

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for transmitting information in paths of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network, comprising:

initiating setup of at least one new path in the ATM network if a capacity of a path currently used for transmission of information exceeds a setup threshold; and

assigning ATM channels to the at least one new path after setting-up the at least one new path; and

initiating release of at least one path in the ATM network if a capacity of a path currently used for transmission of information is below a release threshold.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein decisions on at least one of path setups and path releases are made in response to at least one of a new call and a new data transmission, and

wherein making an anticipatory decision regarding a path takes into account the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information and required future capacity.

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the setup threshold and the capacity of the path currently used for transmission corresponds to accumulated cell rates.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the release and setup thresholds and the capacity of the path currently used for transmission corresponds to a number of currently used ATM-channels in at least one path.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the setup and release thresholds are preset values.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the setup and release thresholds are variable values that are administrated by the ATM network.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the ATM network is an ATM-AAL2 network.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the setup threshold exceeds the release threshold.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information corresponds to current traffic in at least one path of all currently used paths.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the setup threshold and the release threshold corresponds to at least one of a minimum and a maximum of a distance between currently used network resources and all available path resources.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein a path is an ATM virtual channel connection (VCC).

13. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein a channel is an ATM adaption layer (AAL) channel.

14. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein after setting-up more than one path, each of the more than one paths is occupied completely with ATM-channels before starting to occupy another path with ATM channels.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein a path release for at least one path in the network is initiated if the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information is below a threshold during at least a preset period of time or if the capacity of the path currently used for transmission is on average below a threshold during at least a preset period of time.

16. (Currently Amended) Device for transmitting information in paths of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network, comprising:

means for storing thresholds;

means for determining a capacity of a path currently used for transmitting information over the ATM network;

means for comparing the capacity of the path currently used for transmitting information and at least one stored threshold;

means for initiating a path setup of at least one new path in the ATM network if the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information exceeds a setup threshold, wherein after setup of the at least one new path, ATM-channels are assigned to the at least one new path; and

means for initiating release of at least one path in the ATM network if the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information is below a release threshold.

17. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein decisions on at least one of path setups and path releases are made in response to at least one of a new call and a data transmission, and

wherein the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information includes capacity necessary for at least one of the new call and data transmission.

18. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the setup and release thresholds and the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information corresponds to accumulated cell rates.

19. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the setup and release thresholds and the path currently used for transmission of information corresponds to a number of currently used ATM-channels in at least one path.

20. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 16, wherein the setup and release thresholds are preset values.

21. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 16, wherein the setup and release thresholds are variable values that are administrated by the ATM network.

22. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein the ATM network is an ATM-AAL2 network.

23. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein a threshold for setup of at least one path is bigger than a threshold for release of at least one path.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information corresponds to current ATM network traffic.

26. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 16, wherein at least one of [[a]] the setup threshold and [[a]] the release threshold corresponds to at least one of a minimum and maximum of a distance between currently used network resources and available path resources.

27. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, in which at least a component of the device is provided at an access point of the ATM network.

28. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein a path is an ATM-VCC (virtual channel connection).

29. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein a channel is an AAL2 channel.

30. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein after a setup of more than one path, each path is occupied completely with ATM-channels before starting to occupy another path with ATM channels.

31. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 16, wherein a path release for at least one path in the ATM network is initiated if the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information is below a threshold during at least a preset period of time or if the capacity of the path currently used for transmission of information is on average below a threshold during at least a preset period of time.